

Message Text

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SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-12 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

ABF-01 CU-04 RSR-01 OIC-04 /187 W

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R 131708Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 439

INFO USMISSION USUN

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E.O.11652 NA

TAGS ECOSOC

SUBJ ECOSOC 55-AGENDA ITEM 17(A) REPORT OF UNESCO

1. SUMMARY. MAHEU PRESENTED HIS "IN DEPTH" REPORT TO THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE IN A LENGTHY, SOMETIMES PHILOSOPHICAL SPEECH. A VARIETY OF COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS WERE POSED BY GOVTS OF WHICH TWO WERE NOTABLE:
(1) ITALY QUESTIONED VALUE OF ENTIRE COORDINATION COMMITTEE AND CALLED FOR REVIEW OF COORDINATION MACHINERY OF ECOSOC; AND (2) MAHEU, IN RESPONDING TO A US QUESTION, INDICATED THE UNESCO REGULAR BUDGETS MUST MAINTAIN AT LEAST A 50/50 RATIO WITH UNDP FINANCED PROJECTS AND, SHOULD UNDP FINANCED PROJECTS INCREASE, THE UNESCO REGULAR BUDGET WOULD HAVE TO INCREASE ACCORDINGLY. END SUMMARY.

2. DG MAHEU INTRODUCED TO THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE THE REPORT OF UNESCO TO ECOSOC IN AN HOUR LONG STATEMENT (FOLLOWING ONE OF EQUAL LENGTH IN PLENARY) FULL OF ERUDITE STATEMENTS, BROAD SWEEPING PHILOLOPHIZING AND SOME CONCRETE FACTS. HE GAIN RAISED THE POINTS MADE IN THE ACC/CPC MEETING ON THE GRADUAL REASSESSMENT OF UNESCO PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES, UNDERLINING THE DIFFICULTY
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THAT HE BELIEVES THAT GOVTS WILL ENCOUNTER IN ATTEMPT

TO REACH MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SETS OF PRIORITIES. HE THEN TURNED TO UNESCO PROGRAM AREAS WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS FALLING WITHIN BROAD CATEGORIES: (1) EDUCATION; (2) SCIENCE; AND (3) POLITICAL ETHICAL PROBLEM, I.E. HUMAN RIGHTS. IN THE SCIENCE SECTOR, HE REVIEWED THE PROGRESS OF ESTABLISHING UNISIST, A GLOBAL SCIENCE INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM WITH UNESCO SERVING AS INTERFACE BETWEEN THE EFFORTS OF VARIOUS GOVTS. MAN IN THE BIOSPHERE (MAB) HE NOTED AS ANOTHER MAJOR AREA OF ENDEAVOR, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS HAVING DISTINCT ROLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS AS "MAN MAKING HIS OWN ENVIRONMENT" AND CLAIMING UNEP APPROVAL AND CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE PROGRAM. HE MENTIONED BRIEFLY THE INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CORRELATION PROGRAM, CARRIED OUT COOPERATIVELY BETWEEN UNESCO, GOVTS AND NGO'S (NO MENTION OF CNR); THEN THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL DECADE, WHICH HE DESCRIBED RECEIVING GOOD COOPERATION BY WMO/UNESCO DESPITE PROBLEMS OF CONSTITUTIONAL OVERLAPPING, BUT DESCRIBING BASIC PROBLEM AS THAT OF GOVTS TAKING DIFFERENT POSITIONS BEFORE BOTH AGENCIES. WMO/UNESCO IN HYDROLOGICAL FIELD, HOWEVER, WERE DEVELOPING JOINT MEDIUM-TERM PLANNING WITH PARALLEL PLANS FOR ACTION. HE DESCRIBED UNESCO'S ROLE IN THE INTERNGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION AS THAT OF THE FOCAL POINT, NOT A MONOPLOY OF UNESCO. RESULTS OF IOC CONSIDERATIONS SENT TO INDIVIDUAL SA'S FOR INCORPORATION IN THEIR PROGRAMS. REFERRING TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING, HE CLAIMED UNESCO WAS TAKING THE LEAD FROM THE ILO ON EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS, NOTING THE JOINT ILO/UNESCO MISSIONS WHICH SERVED TO DEVELOP MODELS OF RELATIONSHIP IN TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT. THIS DESCRIBED AS PRACTICAL APPLICATION, NO THEORETICAL, IN MEETING THE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS OF LDC'S. HE CALLED ATTENTION TO SEPT 1973 INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE EXPECTED TO BE LINKED EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ON SECONDARY LEVEL. SECONDARY EDUCATION CAN NO LONGER BE CONSIDERED THE PRESERVE OF THE ELITE, BUT PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS AS SOCIETIES MODERNIZE.

3. TURNING TO HUMAN RIGHTS, HE DESCRIBED UNESCO'S ROLE
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AS REFLECTIVE, AS ENCOURAGING AND DISSEMINATING RESEARCH AND THOUGHT. HE DESCRIBED UNESCO AS FERVENT COLLABORATOR ON THE DECLARATION ON DECOLONIALIZATION AND ON RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. HE DESCRIBED UNESCO'S ROLE IN CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AS BEING DIRECTED AND JUSTIFIED BY THE DECLARATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THAT UNESCO NOW COOPERATING ACTIVELY WITH THE AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, SEEKING WAYS FOR THEM TO BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE

WORK OF UNESCO'S EXECUTIVE BOARD. UNESCO'S ROLE, HOWEVER, RESTRICTED TO QUESTIONS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURAL HERITAGE, ETC. NOT POLITICS. HIS LAST EXAMPLE OF UNESCO WORK WAS ITS ROLE IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES TO SEE TO WHAT EXTENT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE BEING PRESERVED. HE DESCRIBED THE PROBLEM AS "DELICATE AND HARD TO REMAIN OBJECTIVE."

4. THE UNITED STATES LED OFF THE ENSUING DEBATE BY READING THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE STATEMENT PREPARED BY IO/UNESCO. NEXT FOLLOWED THE USSR WHO DESCRIBED UNESCO AS IMPORTANT WITH ENORMOUS TASKS. UNESCO HAD TO TAKE CARE NOT TO TRY TO DO EVERYTHING AT ONCE, IT MUST ESTABLISH PRIORITIES, WHICH THE SOVIETS DESCRIBED AS ANALYSIS AND POPULARIZATION OF OTHER'S EXPERIENCE. MAHEU SHOULD TALK MORE ABOUT QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY. PRIORITIES SHOULD BE SET ON "REALISTIC FINANCIAL POSSIBILITIES" AND THAT GC HAD BEEN FULLY JUSTIFIED IN CRITICIZING AND REJECTING MEDIUM-TERM PLANS. HE CASTIGATED MAHEU FOR FAILURE TO GIVE GREATER PRIORITY TO "PEACE AND DECOLONIZATION" EFFORTS, STATING UNESCO UNDERTAKING NO PRACTICAL ACTION TO IMPLEMENT DECLARATION. THE USSR WENT ON TO CRITICIZE THREE-FOLD INCREASE IN UNESCO BUDGET IN 8 YEARS, STATING BUDGETARY GROWTHS MUST BE LINKED TO GLOBAL GNP GROWTHS. HE CRITICIZED EVERY INCREASING ADMINISTRATIVE OVERHEAD AND INFLATED SECRETARIAT, STATING 70 PERCENT OF BUDGET SPENT ON ADMINISTRATION. HE CALLED FOR EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF POSTS ACCORDING TO CONTRIBUTION. HE CONCLUDED WITH WARNING AGAINST DUPLICATION, BUT GAVE NO EXAMPLES.

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5. THE NETHERLANDS ASKED IF MAHEU WAS PREPARED TO BE SPECIFIC ABOUT HIS RATHER VAGUE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ACC-CPC ON DRAWING UP A TABLE OF RESOURCES AND PRIORITY LISTS AND WHETHER HE WAS PREPARED TO MOVE THIS SUGGESTION THROUGH THE ACC FOR POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION BY ECOSOC. THE UKRAINE, IN RATHER INTERESTING DIVISION OF LABOR, WITH SOVIET DELEGATION, DECLARED WAS GOING TO EMPHASIZE THE POSITIVE ASPECTS, WHICH WERE BRIEF AND LIMITED, THEN TURNED TO CRITICISM OF UNESCO FOR LACK OF CLEAR IDEAS AND PRIORITIES, AND FOR INACTION IN THE DECOLONIZATION FIGHT. THE FRENCH DELEGATION CALLED AN IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF UNESCO IN A FEW HOURS A PARADOX. HE CRITICIZED THE REPORT FOR LACKING HIGHLIGHTS TO ECOSOC AND NO INDICATION OF PRIORITIES. IT SHOULD HAVE DISCUSSED PROBLEMS OF RELATIONSHIP WITH UNDP AND PROBLEMS OF COUNTRY PLANNING. WHERE WERE THE INDICATORS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCE FIELD THAT HAD BEEN REQUESTED? WHAT WERE THE PROBLEMS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN UNICEF AND UNESCO--HOW CAN EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS HAVE TWO BOSSES? HE CRITICIZED THE REPORT AS BEING DRAFTED OBVIOUSLY FOR OTHER PURPOSES WITH ONLY SECTIONS TACKED ON FOR ECOSOC. HE INQUIRED AS TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT WITH THE IMPLEMENTATIONS OF DDII. HE CRITICIZED RESULTS OF CONSULTANTS USED IN A CULTURAL REPORT FOR COMING UP WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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SELF-EVIDENT CONCLUSIONS ON SUCH TOPIC AS LIFE-LONG EDUCATION.

6. THE KENYAN DELEGATE AFTER INQUIRING ABOUT THE DIVISION OF WORK BETWEEN UNCTAD AND UNESCO ON THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY ISSUES, TURNED TO CRITICIZE PREVIOUS SPEAKERS FOR AGAIN RAISING ISSUES LOST IN THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO. HE CRITICIZED THE PREVIOUS SPEAKERS FOR TALKING IN GENERALITIES, WHEN SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF DUPLICATION WERE NEEDED. HE REJECTED CONCEPT THAT ADMINISTRATIVE OVERHEAD WAS TOO LARGE. THE UK ASSOCIATED ITSELF WITH THE US AND FRENCH STATEMENTS, EMPHASIZING THE NEED FOR REDUCING PROGRAMS TO A NEAT HIERARCHY OF OBJECTIVES AND "GIVING MOST ATTENTION TO MOST IMPORTANT AND MORE URGENCY TO MOST URGENT". AS COMMITTEE REACHED END OF FIRST SESSION ON UNESCO, MAHEU INTERJECTED THAT HE DIDN'T EXPECT THE COMMITTEE WOULD REOPEN THE DEBATES OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AND THAT IT IN NO POSITION TO PASS JUDGEMENT ON GC. HE ALSO DEFENDED HIS REPORT, STATING HE THOUGHT

HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE REPORTING ON ACTIVITIES IN 1972, NOT UP TO LATEST MINUTE. CONCERNING THE NETHERLAND'S INQUIRY ABOUT HIS RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE ACC/CPC MEETING, HE SAID THESE IDEAS WEREN'T A PLAN, BUT ONLY AN APPROACH WHICH HE WOULD "PROPAGANDIZE" FOR AT EVERY SUITABLE OCCASION.

7. OPENING OF SECOND SESSION OF UNESCO REPORT, CHILE DEFENDED THE RIGHT OF ECOSOC TO DELVE INTO ANY MATTER UNDER THE AGREEMENTS WITH THE SA AND NO CENSORSHIP WAS ACCEPTABLE AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE. HE THEN EMPHASIZED UNESCO NEED FOR CLEAR PRIORITIES AND GREATER ATTENTION TO PROBLEMS OF "PEACE AND DECOLONIZATION" AND SOCIAL INDICATORS. SUBSEQUENT INTERVENTIONS OF INDONESIA, ARGENTINA, POLAND, TUNISIA AND FINLAND ADDED LITTLE NEW TO DEBATE. ITALY, HOWEVER, QUESTIONED THE WHOLE IN-DEPTH REVIEW EXERCISE, CALLING ON THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE TO RETHINK THE ROLE IT PLAYS. SHE CRITICIZED THE COMMITTEE FOR NO SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO PROBLEMS OF COORDINATION. THE UP-TO-NOW PRAGMATIC APPROACH COULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED ON A COST BENEFIT BASIS. THE VERY EXISTENCE OF A DIVISION OF ECOSOC COMMITTEES INTO SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND COORDINATION MADE LITTLE SENSE IN THE LIGHT OF THE INTEGRATED APPROACH. HOW COULD COORDINATION TAKE PLACE APART FROM SUBSTANCE? THE RESULT WAS THAT THE OTHER COMMITTEES WORK ON

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EFFECTIVE PROBLEMS, AND COORDCOMMITTEE ON MECHANISMS. INDIA FOLLOWING WITH DEFENSE ON AN ABSTRACT LEVEL OF RIGHT OF ECOSOC TO DELVE INTO WHAT IT WISHED, BUT THAT HE BELIEVED PROPER ROLE FOR COORDINATION COMMITTEE WAS NOT TO DELVE INTO DAY-BY-DAY ACTIVITIES OR BUDGETS, BUT RATHER SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON "INTERDISCIPLINARY" PROBLEMS. WHILE WORLD AS A WHOLE TOO POOR TO AFFORD WASTE, WHAT REALLY NEEDED AS EX ANTE HARMONIZATION RATHER THAN EX POST HAGGLING OVER POSSIBLE DUPLICATION. THE JAPANESE DELEGATION, REFERRING TO LAST MEETING CSTD ASKED IF UNESCO COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE ON DEVELOPING DEFINITIONS OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ON HOW TO QUANTIFY BENEFITS TO LDCS OF SUCH RESEARCH. HIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT HAVE ANSWERS SUCH QUESTIONS AND CSTD NEEDED BENEFIT UNESCO STUDIES. THE CHINESE DELEGATION SINGLED OUT PROGRAMS IT LIKED (SCIENCE, EDUCATION EXCHANGES, ANTI-COLONIALISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS). HE CAUTIONED AGAINST BEING FOOLED BY SHAM DISARMAMENT CLAIMS IN UNESCO'S STUDIES ON "SO-CALLED" EFFECTS OF DISARMAMENT. HE CRITICIZED UNESCO AS SPREAD TO THIN AND NEEDING PRIORITIES, AS STILL DUPLICATIVE OF THE WORK OF OTHERS, BUT SAW THE PRIOR CONSULTATION MECHANISM A FEASIBLE WAY TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION.

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8. MAHEU ORGANIZED HIS RESPONSE TO THE 17 INTERVENTIONS BY COMMENTING SUCCESSIVELY ON (1) REPORT AND ITS FORMAT; (2) ORGANIZATION AND GENERAL POLICY; (3) QUESTIONS RELATED TO MAIN PROGRAMS; AND (4) HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE PROBLEMS. HE AGREED WITH INDIA, FRANCE, UK AND FINLAND THAT REPORT SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE HIGHLIGHTED TO ECOSOC CONSIDERATIONS AND COORDINATION PROBLEMS, BUT NEEDED CUT-OFF DATE, COULDN'T BE A REPORT UP TO LAST MINUTE. ON GENERAL POLICIES, WHILE ECOSOC FREE TO EXPRESS ITS OPINIONS OF THE GC DECISION, DG SLAVE OF THE GC AND CAN'T MAKE VALUE JUDGEMENTS OF ITS DECISIONS. BUDGETS ARE BASIC INSTRUMENT OF SOVEREIGN ORGANIZATION. THE VOTE HAD BEEN DIFFICULT, BUT HE WONDERED IF US BELIEVED IN "DEMOCRATIC" OR "PLUTOCRATIC" REGIMES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. HE COMMENTED MANAGEMENT REFORMS WERE AT HIS INSTIGATION AND THAT DIVISION OF ORGANIZATION AND METHODS HAD BEEN SET UP FROM THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. CONCERNING UNESCO'S RETHINKING OF ITS PROGRAMS, HE DID NOT SEE THIS AS MAGIC EXERCISE, BUT A LENGTHY AND DIFFICULT ONE. WHILE HE PERSONALLY COULD PREPARE A LIST OF PROGRAM PRIORITY AREAS, HE ENVISAGED GREAT DIFFICULTIES OF THE GOVERNMENTS TO AGREE TO SUCH A LIST-- "PERHAPS IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO COOPERATE WITHOUT KNOWING WHY, RATHER THAN KNOWING WHY GOVERNMENTS CAN'T COOPERATE." HE HAD RECEIVED THUS FAR ONLY 24 REPLIES TO HIS QUESTIONNAIRE TO UNCLASSIFIED

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GOVERNMENTS ON PRIORITIES, DESPITE THE EXPIRATION OF THE 5 JULY CUT-OFF DATE. ON THE QUESTIONS RELATED TO TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, HE CONCEDED GREATER COOPERATION WITH UNIDO REQUIRED AND DEFINED UNESCO'S ROLE AS CREATING THE ENVIRONMENT TO WHICH TECHNOLOGY CAN BE TRANSFERRED, NOTING MANY COUNTRIES HAVE LITTLE OR NO SCIENTIFIC OR TECHNICAL HUMAN INFRASTRUCTURE TO ABSORB TECHNOLOGY. ON THE U.S. QUESTION RELATED TO AN INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS OF EDUCATION SYSTEMS, UNESCO HAD DONE SUCH A SURVEY BASED ON ANSWERS OF MEMBER STATES, BUT IT WAS NOT PUBLISHED BECAUSE SOME OF THE INFORMATION WAS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL. HE WAS SORRY AT IMPLIED CRITICISM OF ILO/UNESCO COOPERATION IN TECHNICAL TRAINING, EXPLAINING THAT THE REVIEWS OF ACTIVITIES WERE SEPARATE IN EACH ORGANIZATION, BUT THE TWO WERE PROCEEDING HAND-IN-HAND. CONCERNING THE U.S. INQUIRY ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNISIST AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL REFERRAL SERVICE, MAHEU STATED UNISIST IS NOT OPERATIONAL, BUT METHODOLOGICAL. HE HOPES, HOWEVER, THE TWO SYSTEMS CAN DEVELOP WITH THE SAME METHODOLOGY SO AS TO BE COMPATIBLE. CONCERNING UNISIST AND UNESCO DOCUMENTATION SYSTEMS, RELATIONS COULD BE BETTER, BUT THE APPROACHES ARE DIFFERENT. UNISIST IS A LOOSE WORLDWIDE SYSTEM WHILE THE DOCUMENTATION SERVICE IS DESIGNED TO HELP IMPROVE LDC INFRASTRUCTURES. THERE IS A BASIS FOR COOPERATION, HOWEVER.

9. PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANT REPLY TO US INQUIRIES CAME IN REPLY TO QUESTION ON BALANCE BETWEEN REGULAR BUDGET AND UNDP INPUTS IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE EDUCATION. MAHEU GENERALIZED HIS ANSWER BY SAYING THAT HE THOUGHT THE MAXIMUM RATIO BETWEEN REGULAR BUDGETS AND UNDP INPUTS IN AN ORGANIZATION WAS ABOUT 50-50. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN EXCESS OF THIS WOULD LOSE EFFECTIVENESS AND RATIO SHOULD NOT BE EXCEEDED. HE THEN CAREFULLY EXPLAINED HE WAS ONLY PUTTING LIMIT ON RATION, BUT THAT TOTAL EXPENDITURES MUST ALWAYS GO UP. IF UNDP GOES UP UNILATERALLY, THEN REGULAR BUDGET WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW. AT NO TIME DID HE MENTION THE ROLE OF OVERHEAD PAYMENTS IN HIS ANSWER.

10. DEFERRING TO U.S. STATEMENT ON BROADCAST SATELLITES, MAHEU SAID HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH U.S. POSITION, BUT GC HAD ADOPTED ITS DECLARATION AND HE COULDN'T SAY MORE. AS FAR AS COORDINATION WITH THE OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE, MAHEU STATED HE HAD UNDERTAKEN COMMITMENT TO REPORT TO THE OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE, BUT THAT THE COMMITTEE DIDN'T SEEM INTERESTED AND HAD NOT REACTED TO HIS UNCLASSIFIED

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REPORT. HE CONCLUDED HIS ANSWERS BY SAYING IF UNESCO HAD TO BE DONE OVER AGAIN, ITS CONSTITUTION WOULD PROBABLY BE LESS ENCOMPASSING, BUT IN RETROSPECT THE FOUNDERS HAD PROBABLY HAD RIGHT IN LUMPING ITS DIVERSE FIELDS TOGETHER. BASSIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973GENEVA03596
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730736/aaaabaak.tel
Line Count: 383
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Jan-2002 by thomasv0>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECOSOC 55-AGENDA ITEM 17(A) REPORT OF UNESCO
TAGS: OCON, ECOSOC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005